

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR OPERATING VIRTUAL  
DEVICES BY MASTER CONTROLLERS IN A CONTROL SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

5 A master controller ~~(28)~~ in a control area network  
system in a larger control area network ~~(16, 18)~~ may have  
a plurality of devices ~~(33)~~ coupled thereto. The master  
controller may further include a device manager ~~(51)~~  
10 which provides a virtual device ~~(58)~~. The virtual device  
operates to link a state associated with the virtual  
device to a plurality of states associated with the  
devices such that the respective states are maintained in  
a substantially similar condition. The substantially  
15 similar condition is maintained by propagating a change  
in the state of the virtual device to a change in the  
state of the devices and a change in the state of one or  
more of the devices is propagated to the virtual device  
and all other devices.